GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2741
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
RECARPETING OF AIRSTRIP AT BAGDOGRA AIRPORT
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the recarpeting work of air-strip at the Bagdogra Airport had started;

(b) the target date fixed for its completion;

(c) whether the work has since been completed and the airport is in use for flight operation;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on requests received from Members of Parliament during the period from 1.4.2000 to 28.2.2001 about early completion of work and non-functioning of airport?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a)to(d):The resurfacing work of airstrip at Bagdogra airport was started by Indian Air Force on 10th November, 1999.It was planned to complete the work by 31st January, 2001 but due to operational requirement of Civil airlines and some other factors, including excessive rain etc., the work is, now, expected to be completed by 31st March, 2001. However, special efforts have been made by Indian Air Force to enable civil airlines to continue to operate civil scheduled flights and these airlines have been operating, regularly since 4th January, 2001 after installation of Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) for runway 01.

(e) Requests were received from the Hon`ble Union Ministers of Civil Aviation and External Affairs, Hon`ble Chief Minister of Sikkim and one Hon`ble Member of Parliament, who have, already, been apprised of the position.